UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
EUGENE DISTRICT OFFICE

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT NO. OR090-EA-00-30

ROAD NUMBER 18-6-33.1 DECOMMISSIONING

I. INTRODUCTION

The Road Number 18-6-33.1 Decommissioning Environmental Assessment (EA) No. OR090-99-12 was released for public review in June 1999 and the Decision Record was signed on July 29, 1999. However, prior to award of the road decommissioning contract, several survey protocols and other agency direction for certain Survey and Manage/Protection Buffer species were developed. Since that time, protocol surveys have been completed and additional analysis regarding Survey and Manage/Protection Buffer species has been conducted. This document incorporates the most current information regarding the species found within the proposed project area, and by doing so replaces the original EA.

This Environmental Assessment (EA) will address the decommissioning of approximately 0.4 miles of Road No. 18-6-33.1 on BLM lands by subsoiling the roadway and by removing all the culverts along the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) ownership of this road. The culverts to be removed would include one 60 inch by 40 foot culvert across a fish bearing stream, Swamp Creek; two log culverts across non - fish bearing tributaries of Swamp Creek; and one 8 inch cross ditch culvert. The proposed project area is located in Section 33, Township 18 South, Range 6 West, Willamette Meridian, Lane County, Oregon, within the Riparian Reserve of the Matrix land use allocation (LUA) within the Wolf Creek Watershed. The Wolf Creek Watershed is located in Lane County, southwest of the city of Eugene. The watershed lies at the eastern headwaters of the Siuslaw River Basin within the Coast Range Province.

A. CONFORMANCE

The proposed action and alternatives are in conformance with the *Record of Decision for Amendments to Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Planning Documents within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl, April 1994 (ROD)*, and the *Eugene District Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan, June 1995 (Eugene District ROD/RMP)* to which this document is tiered. These documents are incorporated by reference.

Watershed analysis has been completed for the Wolf Creek Watershed. The watershed analysis identified road closures, and subsoiling as an opportunity to benefit aquatic and terrestrial wildlife habitat and resources.

Plan maintenance documentation postponing surveys for seven Survey and Manage and Protection Buffer species was recently completed (“Plan Maintenance Documentation, USDI Bureau of Land Management, To Change the Implementation Schedule for Survey and Manage and Protection Buffer Species,” approved March 13, 2000). This plan maintenance delays the survey requirements because these seven fungi species may require five or more years of surveys to have a high likelihood of locating sites occupied by the species, and therefore have feasibility problems for completion of pre-project surveys. In lieu of these multi-year surveys, "single season" survey protocols have been developed for these seven species; such surveys have been

conducted for this project. Thus, the Proposed Action and alternatives are in conformance with the direction provided in the Plan Maintenance Documentation. The implementation of the plan maintenance is provided for by BLM planning regulations (43 CFR 1610.5-4).

The effect of the plan maintenance action was analyzed in an environmental assessment (EA), "To Change the Implementation Schedule for Survey and Manage and Protection Buffer Species," issued October 7, 1998 ("Schedule Change EA"). The analysis contained in the Schedule Change EA is incorporated into this document by reference.

In addition, a Supplemental EIS is being prepared that proposes amendments to the Survey and Manage and Protection Buffer species standards and guidelines (For Amendment to the Survey and Manage, Protection Buffer, and Other Mitigating Measures Standards and Guidelines, USDA Forest Service and USDI Bureau of Land Management). If that FSEIS is completed prior to a decision on this project and provides information that would indicate other management is necessary for the Survey and Manage/Protection Buffer species known to exist within the project area, the Proposed Action would be modified or withdrawn.

This EA is tiered to the above documents and to *EA No. OR 090-EA-00-29, B-Happy Commercial Thinning*. Additional site-specific information is available in the B-Happy Commercial Thinning project analysis file. This file and the above referenced documents are available for review at the Eugene District Office. The Schedule Change EA and the Plan Maintenance Documentation are also available for review on the internet at *http://www.or.blm.gov/nwfp.htm*.

B. NEED FOR THE PROPOSED ACTION

"Under the Aquatic Conservation Strategy, Riparian Reserves are used to maintain and restore riparian structures and functions of streams, confer benefits to riparian-dependent and associated species other than fish, enhance habitat conservation for organisms that are dependent on the transition zone between up slope and riparian areas, improve travel and dispersal corridors for many terrestrial animals and plants, and provide for greater connectivity of the watershed". (*ROD B-13*)

The Wolf Creek Watershed Analysis identified road closures and subsoiling as opportunities to benefit aquatic and terrestrial wildlife habitat within the watershed. Road decommissioning would reduce the extent to which the existing road within the Riparian Reserve functions as an extension of the stream network, and would restore or enhance the connectivity of the stream channel and Riparian Reserve for both aquatic and terrestrial wildlife resources.

Road decommissioning would contribute to the achievement of the above Riparian Reserve and watershed objectives and would contribute to stabilization of the site in the long term, reducing road maintenance needs within the watershed. The agency's capacity to conduct road maintenance has recently declined as funds for maintenance have been reduced.

II. PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

PROPOSED ACTION - ALTERNATIVE 1

The proposed action would decommission and eliminate maintenance on Road No. 18-6-33.1 (approximately 0.4 miles) by closing the entry to the traveled way by barricading, removing all culverts, and subsoiling the roadway. This would restore the drainage to its natural gradient and block vehicular traffic to reduce the potential for erosion and eliminate maintenance. This road would be decommissioned from its present condition or from its condition after renovation and use in conjunction with the proposed B-Happy Commercial Thinning project (*EA No. OR O90-EA-00-29*) referenced above. The road closure and subsoiling of the BLM portion of this road system would also eliminate access to approximately 0.5 miles of additional existing road on private lands within Section 34, Township

18 South, Range 6 West, Willamette Meridian to the east.

Culvert removal at the Swamp Creek crossing would facilitate fish passage and restore the connectivity of the Swamp Creek stream channel and its tributaries.

DESIGN FEATURES OF PROPOSED ACTION

1. Road decommissioning - Subsoiling with a self-drafting winged subsoiler to maintain long term soil productivity, and if necessary, waterbarring, would occur during periods of low soil moisture (generally less than 25% soil moisture).

2. In order to slow the spread of noxious weeds, all equipment would be cleaned prior to its arrival on Bureau of Land Management land. In the unlikely event roadside seeding is needed, annual and perennial rye mixtures with strict guidelines on seed purity (no crop or noxious weed content) would be used.

3. At the completion of the culvert removals within Swamp Creek and its tributaries, limbs would be scattered along the stream banks and within the road prism of the stream crossing area to reduce the potential for sediment input into the stream channel until vegetation has become re-established, stabilizing the area.

4. Survey and Manage and Protection Buffer Species -Botanical Reserves - Known survey and manage and protection buffer species sites would receive reserves or buffers to reduce edge effects and disturbance to these species. No disturbance would occur within the survey and manage; and protection buffer botanical reserve areas. (See *Botanical Resources*, *page 4*, for description of size of reserve areas provided.)

5. Survey and Manage Mollusk Reserves - Survey and manage mollusk species sites would receive reserves or buffers to reduce edge effects and disturbance to these species. No disturbance would occur within the survey and manage mollusk reserve areas. (See *Wildlife page 5 -6* for description of size of reserve areas provided.)

NO ACTION - ALTERNATIVE 2

The No Action Alternative would be to leave this road in its present condition or in the condition subsequent to its use within the proposed B-Happy Commercial Thinning project (*EA No. OR O90-EA-00-29*).

III. SURVEY AREA

The survey area includes the Road No. 18-6-33.1 decommissioning project area addressed in this EA and approximately 485 acres of adjacent forest lands surveyed in preparation for the B-Happy Commercial Thinning project (*EA No. OR O90-EA-00-29*).

IV. ISSUES NOT ANALYZED

“Single season” surveys were completed for the seven Survey and Manage or Protection Buffer species listed in the plan maintenance documentation for the Schedule Change EA. While these surveys may locate some individuals if localized conditions are right, conditions may not be right in other places in any given year. To have a high likelihood of finding these species, surveys may need to be done for several years over a variety of climatic conditions. Therefore, it is possible that there are undetected individuals of these species in the project area. The issue of how the Proposed Action and alternatives would impact undetected individuals or populations of these species was not analyzed because impacts are not expected to exceed those anticipated in the Schedule Change EA.

V. AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

PROJECT AREA

The project area is within the Riparian Reserve of the Matrix (LUA) and is an existing barricaded road grade (Road

No. 18-6-33.1). Road No. 18-6-33.1 meets the B-Line Mainline Road (Road No. 19-6-9.1) at a junction just west of Swamp Creek. Road No. 18-6-33.1 crosses a fish bearing stream, Swamp Creek, with an existing culvert with fill and crosses two other perennial, higher gradient, non-fish bearing tributaries flowing south from the upland with two existing log culverts and fill. It crosses BLM ownership for approximately 0.4 miles of bottom land along a low gradient, fish bearing tributary of Swamp Creek. Swamp Creek and these tributaries are described further under the *Vegetation* and *Aquatic and Riparian Resources and Fisheries* sections below. The area east of Swamp Creek and the B-Line Mainline Road and north of Road No. 18-6-33.1 has moderate south and west facing slopes.

VEGETATION

The vegetation on the slopes adjacent to the road project area is predominantly dense Douglas-fir with an approximate birth date of 1952 - 1959 (41 - 48 years old). There are very few larger residual trees present. Minor components of the stand include western hemlock, western redcedar, and hardwoods.

The predominant plant community in this area is Douglas-fir/vine maple-salal/sword fern with areas of Oregon grape, twinflower and trailing snowberry. Numbers of hazelnut and ocean-spray increase upslope, while vine maple increases downslope in this area of the stand.

The two perennial, higher gradient, non-fish bearing tributaries flowing from the south facing slope above the road decommissioning area support a rather narrow strip of riparian associated species (lady fern, deer fern, osoberry, etc.). These streams flow into a lower gradient fish bearing tributary of Swamp Creek. Swamp Creek has a flood plain and associated riparian plant community varying in width from 50' to 150'. The dominant overstory tree along much of the stream bottoms is red alder with a thick tall shrub layer (mostly vine maple, some willow and spirea) and a rich herbaceous layer (lady fern, *Carex* spp., wild ginger, false lily-of-the-valley, skunk cabbage, twisted stalk, foam flower).

BOTANICAL RESOURCES

Special Status and Survey and Manage Plant Species

All vascular surveys were conducted and completed during the spring and summer of 1998 in preparation for the B-Happy Commercial Thinning, *(EA No. OR O90-EA-00-29)* referenced above. In conjunction with these surveys, no federally listed threatened or endangered plant species were located within the survey area of approximately 485 acres. Included in the list of plants surveyed for were Survey and Manage Component 2 plant species. No sensitive vascular plant species were found. All botanical surveys have been completed.

Surveys for *Ulota megalospora*, a Protection Buffer moss species, were conducted during the same time frame as the above surveys according to survey protocols established by the Eugene District Botany Work Group. Protocols were developed using information from *Appendix J2 of the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement on Management of Habitat for Late- Successional and Old-Growth Forest Related Species Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl* (*Appendix J2 of the FSEIS*) and local expertise. *Ulota* was found at one location within close proximity to Road No. 18-6-33.1 proposed for decommissioning (additional sites were found within the survey area). Because the distribution pattern of *Ulota* in the general area of the project area is not disjunct or highly localized, no protection of known sites is required. However, the *Ulota* site would receive approximately a 0.06 acre reserve buffer.

Surveys for Survey and Manage/ Protection Buffer fungi species were conducted during the fall of 1999 in preparation for the B-Happy Commercial Thinning, *(EA No. OR O90-EA-00-29)*. *Otidea onotica* a Survey and Manage/ Protection Buffer fungi found at one location within close proximity to Road No. 18-6-33.1 proposed for decommissioning would be protected with approximately a 0.25 acre reserve area. (A large portion of this 0.25 acre reserve area lies within the untreated Riparian Reserve).

Sarcosoma mexicana, a Survey and Manage Component 3 and Protection Buffer fungus species was found

incidentally during other surveys at one location within close proximity to the Road No. 18-6-33.1 proposed for decommissioning. This site would be protected with approximately a 0.25 acre reserve area.

Noxious Weeds and Non-native Plant Species

Concentrations of Canada and bull thistle, Scot's broom, St. John's wort, and tansy ragwort were all located on or near the B-Line Mainline Road which crosses through the project area. The Scot's broom along this road was pulled during botanical surveys. Road No. 18-6-33.1 supports a somewhat weedy plant community (Himalayan blackberry, foxglove, St. John's wort, etc.) that appears to be confined to the road.

SOILS

The soils in the survey area are classified as Peavine, Bohannon, and Cumley soil series. The Peavine series consist of moderately deep, well drained, red clayey soils and are predominately found on gentle to moderate slopes. The Peavine soils are members of the clayey, mixed, mesic family of *Typic Haplohumults*. The Bohannon series consists of moderately deep, well drained, gravelly or cobbly loam soils and are normally found on gentle to very steep mountainous slopes. The Bohannon soils are members of the fine-loamy, mixed, mesic family of *Typic Haplumbrepts.* The Cumley series consists of deep, moderately well drained, clayey soils and are predominantly found on gently to moderately sloping mountain foot slopes at elevations of 800 to 2,000 feet. The Cumley soils are members of the clayey, mixed, mesic family of *Typic Haplohumults.* There are no acres withdrawn for non-suitability for timber production in the proposed treatment area.

AQUATIC AND RIPARIAN RESOURCES AND FISHERIES

Swamp Creek contains primarily rearing habitat and relatively few spawning areas for cutthroat trout, coho salmon, steelhead and sculpin. Swamp Creek and its tributaries at and near the project area include glides, pools, riffles and some rapids. There are high amounts of silt and sand, with less bedrock, gravel and rubble. Moderate amounts of logs and wood debris provide stream structure. Cutthroat and sculpin are within some project area tributaries, and coho salmon use Swamp Creek within the project area.

Cutthroat and sculpin are in the main and secondary tributaries flowing from the east along Road No. 18-6-33.1. This main tributary contains pools, glides, and riffles. Substrates include high silt, sand and low gravel. Moderate amounts of logs and wood debris provide cover. The secondary tributary contains riffles and pools in its lower reach and its channel includes sand, silt, and gravel. High amounts of wood debris and logs are in this stream.

WILDLIFE

Threatened and Endangered species

There are no activity centers for any terrestrial species listed or proposed under the Endangered Species Act within the survey area. The survey area adjacent to Road No. 18-6-33.1 proposed to be decommissioned provides dispersal habitat for the northern spotted owl. The proposed project area is within two known northern spotted owl 1.5 mile provincial home ranges.

Special Status Species

No sensitive amphibians were located during general wildlife surveys. No surveys specifically targeted for bats were conducted, however within the survey area there were limited large snags that could provide refugia for bat species.

Survey and Manage Species

Protocol surveys for red tree voles were conducted and completed during the spring of 2000 in preparation for the B-Happy Commercial Thinning, (*EA No. OR O90-EA-00-29)*. No red tree vole nest was located within close proximity to the Road No. 18-6-33.1 proposed to be decommissioned.

Protocol surveys were conducted and completed for Strategy-2-Mollusk Species during the fall of 1997 and the spring of 1998 in preparation for the B-Happy Commercial Thinning (*EA No. OR O90-EA-00-29)* referenced above. In

conjunction with these surveys:

= *Megomphix hemphilli*, a land snail, and *Prophysaon coeruleum*, a land slug were found near each other at a location within close proximity to the Road No. 18-6-33.1. proposed for decommissioning. This combined species site would receive approximately a 0.75 (3/4) acre reserve area to reduce disturbance to these species.

= *Prophysaon coeruleum*, a land slug, found at one location south and within close proximity to the Road No. 18-6-33.1 proposed to be decommissioned would be protected within the unthinned Riparian Reserves.

Big game

Black-tailed deer and elk occur in the survey area. The proposed survey area is being used by deer and elk for forage, hiding cover and to a minor extent thermal cover. Adjacent clear-cuts would be used for foraging by both deer and elk. There is a lack of large standing or down trees that could provide denning sites for black bears. However, the survey area and adjacent lands could be used by transitory or foraging bears known to exist in the area.

Neotropical migrants

Species preferring mid-successional coniferous stands and edge habitat such as the olive-sided flycatcher would be expected to occur in the survey area.

Other Wildlife - There are no known raptor nests or heron rookeries in the survey area or in close vicinity.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

A cultural resource inventory of the area has not been completed. Past pre-project inventories in the lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management within the Coast Range Physiographic Province have not resulted in the discovery of historic properties, therefore no cultural resources are expected to be affected. The guidelines of the protocol agreement (Protocol Appendix D) between the Bureau of Land Management and the Oregon State Historic Preservation Officer (1998) makes the conclusion "that the chances of finding important historic properties in the area are so minimal such that further cultural resource survey prior to project implementation does not justify the continued expenditure of federal funds in the effort". The protocol agreement does set forth procedures covering post-project cultural resource surveys which would be implemented.

RECREATION AND VISUAL RESOURCES

The project area is classified as Visual Resource Management Class IV, which allows for moderate levels of change to the characteristic landscape. Management activities may dominate the view and be the major focus of viewer attention. *(Eugene District ROD/RMP, June 1995, page 75-78)*.

The project area is in BLM administered lands used for dispersed recreation activities, such as hunting and driving for pleasure. Timber management activities are recognized as consistent with dispersed recreation activities. Road No. 18-6-33.1 is currently blocked with a guardrail to limit its use.

VI. DIRECT AND INDIRECT EFFECTS

This section will describe the consequences of implementing the proposed action and the anticipated consequences of the no action alternative.

A. UNAFFECTED RESOURCES

The following resources are either not present or would not be affected by the proposed action or any of the alternatives: Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, prime or unique farm lands, Native American religious concerns, hazardous or solid wastes, Wild and Scenic Rivers, Wilderness, low income or minority populations, air quality, vIsual resources and environmental justice.

CULTURAL RESOURCES - are not expected to be affected by the proposed action or the no-action alternative. If in connection with the proposed action there is an encounter or awareness of any objects or sites of cultural value, such as historical or prehistorical ruins, graves, grave markers, fossils or artifacts, the site specific proposed action would be suspended until mitigative measures are established.

B. DIRECT AND INDIRECT EFFECTS OF ALTERNATIVE 1- PROPOSED ACTION

VEGETATION

The proposed action would encourage the growth of understory vegetation within the riparian by reducing the existing soil compaction within the existing road grade and landings.

BOTANICAL RESOURCES

The proposed action would have no effect upon federally listed threatened or endangered plants.

Survey and Manage Component 1 and 3, and Protection Buffer species *(Ulota meglospora*, a Protection Buffer moss; *Sarcosoma mexicana*, a Survey and Manage Component 3 and Protection Buffer fungus; and *Otidea*, a Survey and Manage/ Protection Buffer fungi occur within close proximity to the Road No. 18-6-33.1 proposed to be decommissioned.

Draft management recommendations developed for *Ulota megalospora* require maintaining habitat for disjunct and localized populations by retaining existing stand structure and microclimate. *(Draft, Version 1.1; Draft Management Recommendations Bryophytes, Installment 1; October 24, 1996)* Because the distribution pattern of *Ulota megalospora* in the general area of the project area is not disjunct or highly localized, no protection of known sites is required. However, the *Ulota* site would receive approximately a 0.06 acre reserve buffer.

No management recommendations exist for *Sarcosoma mexicana*, however, the Northwest Forest Plan states that management of known sites should emphasize protecting the duff layer where the species is found. For *Otidea onotica*, management recommendations call for protecting the microclimate of the site *(BLM - Instruction Memorandum OR-98-003, "Management Recommendations for Survey and Manage Fungi, Version 2.0")* The approximate 1/4-acre buffers around the *Sarcosoma* and *Otidea* known sites are expected to maintain these habitat elements for these species and would provide adequate protection of these sites.

The Survey and Manage and Protection Buffer reserves along with the Riparian Reserves would ensure adequate protection for these individual Protection Buffer and Survey and Manage sites by: (1) maintaining a viable population at these sites by protecting known sites (with associated spore banks), (2) protecting habitat at known sites through maintaining the duff/litter layer in the case of terrestrial species and the substrate (tree trunk, branches etc.) for *Ulota*; and through providing some minimal microclimate buffering, and (3) maintaining the current known range of the species.

The proposed action would reduce the existing soil compaction within the existing road grade and landings and would encourage the growth of native herbaceous communities. Design features addressing cleaning of equipment would reduce the potential spread of existing noxious weeds as described within the *Affected Environment* section of the EA.

SOILS

The proposed subsoiling and decommissioning would reduce soil compaction, restoring the hydrologic behavior and soil productivity of the treated area, keeping the overall growth loss effects to 1 percent or less. (*Eugene District ROD/RMP, June 1995*). The proposed action would contribute to further stabilization of the site in the long term.

AQUATIC AND RIPARIAN RESOURCES AND FISHERIES

This proposed action was determined by the Level 1 Coast Range Province Team to be a "*May Affect, Likely to Adversely Affect"* for the coastal coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*). The proposed action is consistent with the aquatic restoration terms and conditions, and descriptions in the Programmatic Biological Assessment and

Biological Opinion for the Oregon Coast Coho Salmon issued by NMFS on June 5, 2000 so no further consultation is required.

Temporary increases in sediment from culvert removal within Swamp Creek and its tributaries would occur in the short term. Implementation of project design feature 3 would reduce the potential for continued sediment input into the stream channel in the interim until vegetation becomes re-established along the streambanks within the culvert removal areas. The untreated vegetation adjacent to the stream channels outside of the culvert removal areas would protect streambanks and would contribute to maintaining current water quality and conditions of riparian and aquatic functions.

The proposed road subsoiling and decommissioning of Road No. 18-6-33.1 would reduce the amount of existing road within the Riparian Reserve, and road decommissioning would contribute to further stabilization of the site in the long term, reducing road maintenance needs within the watershed. The proposed subsoiling and decommissioning would reduce soil compaction, restoring the hydrologic behavior and soil productivity of the roaded area within Riparian Reserve.

Road decommissioning and culvert removal would reduce the extent to which the existing road within the Riparian Reserve functions as an extension of the stream network, and would restore or enhance the connectivity of the stream channels and Riparian Reserve by eliminating stream crossings over Swamp Creek and its tributaries. This would improve fish habitat, increase the opportunity for exchange of ground water and stream water, and would restore normal flooding of the floodplain.

WILDLIFE

The proposed action would have *"No Affect"* on any federally listed or proposed terrestrial species known to occur in the vicinity because no habitat for such species would be modified and no such habitat exists within 0.25 mile of these species.

The decommissioning of Road No. 18-6-33.1 would restore or enhance the connectivity of the stream channel and Riparian Reserve for terrestrial wildlife species. The value of hiding and thermal cover for deer and elk would be improved with the proposed action due to reduced human access and disturbance and the increase in understory or ground level vegetation. Forage would increase in the project area over the long term due to an increase in vegetation in the treated area.

The combined mollusk site (Megomphix hemphilli, and *Prophysaon coeruleum*) within close proximity to Road No. 18-6-33.1 to be decommissioned would be protected from disturbance by the 0.75 (3/4) acre reserve provided. The *Prophysaon coeruleum* site located south and within close proximity to Road No. 18-6-33.1 to be decommissioned would be protected from disturbance by unthinned riparian reserves. (The proposed subsoiling associated with the road decommissioning may cause a reduction in the numbers of unknown mollusk locations within the road prism if encountered during the subsoiling action due to soil disturbance and resulting changes in refuge habitat in the short term.) The mollusk populations are expected to continue or increase their presence in the long term within the project area with the implementation of the proposed action due to soil restoration within the road prism and the associated increase in vegetation.

RECREATION

The proposed action would cause a decrease in approximately 0.4 miles of road access on BLM lands for potential dispersed recreation.

CUMULATIVE EFFECTS OF ALTERNATIVE 1 - PROPOSED ACTION

This analysis incorporates the analysis of cumulative effects in the *USDA Forest Service and USDI Bureau of Land Management Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement on Management of Habitat for Late-*

Successional and Old-Growth Forest Related Species Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl, February 1994, (Chapter 3 & 4) and in the *Eugene District Proposed RMP/EIS November, 1994 (Chapter 4), and the Schedule Change EA.* These documents analyze most cumulative effects of timber harvest and other related management activities. None of the alternatives in this proposed action would have cumulative effects on resources beyond those effects analyzed in the above documents. The following section supplements those analyses, providing site-specific information and analysis particular to the alternatives considered here.

The proposed action would contribute cumulatively to a reduction in existing road within the Riparian Reserve of the Wolf Creek Watershed which would benefit both terrestrial and aquatic species. The reduction in existing road within the Riparian Reserve would contribute to the restoration and cumulative recovery of the physical and functional nature of the stream and riparian system within the watershed by improving the connectivity of the stream system. The proposed subsoiling and decommissioning would contribute cumulatively to restoration of soil productivity and the hydrologic functioning of soil resources within the project area and watershed. The proposed action would contribute to a decreased risk of sediment input into the stream system within the watershed in the long term and would decrease the required road maintenance and monitoring required in the long term to meet water quality objectives.

The Proposed Action, Alternative 1, would have no cumulative effect upon federally listed threatened or endangered plants. The survey and manage and protection buffer reserve areas provided (botanical and mollusk) together with the Riparian Reserves and LSR across the watershed would maintain and contribute to the long term continued presence and viability of these Survey and Manage and Protection Buffer species populations within the project area and watershed. These species would be managed in accordance with the District management strategy developed for these species over time incorporating adaptive management as more information becomes known for these species.

No cumulative negative impacts are anticipated from the proposed action except for a decrease in potential recreational access. The proposed action does not change the legal status of public access to the parcels of land.

C. DIRECT AND INDIRECT EFFECTS OF ALTERNATIVE NO. 2 (NO ACTION)

The No-Action Alternative would have no immediate, direct effect on botanical and soil resources within the project area. The current condition of Road No. 18-6-33.1 would gradually become more stable over time with a slow improvement in quality of habitat as vegetation encroaches into the existing roadway in the absence of disturbance or road use. However, the no-action alternative would leave existing culverts in place and would not eliminate the potential for culvert failure which would increase over time due to deterioration of the culverts. Culvert failure would cause a large sediment load on the local stream system if it does occur. The condition of this road would require periodic monitoring over time and possibly road and culvert maintenance to insure continued attainment of aquatic objectives.

CUMULATIVE EFFECTS OF ALTERNATIVE 2 (NO ACTION)

The No-Action Alternative would have no direct cumulative effects to resources within the project area.

VII. CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

A. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

The proposed action and alternatives were developed and analyzed by the following interdisciplinary team of BLM specialists:

Barry Williams	BLM Soil Scientist
Mark Stephen	BLM Forest Ecologist

Gary Cairns	BLM Engineer
Dave Reed	BLM Fuels Specialist
Michael Southard	BLM Archaeologist
Phil Redlinger	BLM Silviculturist and Timber Planner
Al Corbin	BLM Timber Manager
Dan Crannell	BLM T & E and Wildlife Biologist
Russ Hammer	BLM Fisheries Biologist
Neil Armantrout	BLM Fisheries T&E
Gary Wilkinson	BLM ARD/GIS Specialist
Kathy Pendergrass	BLM Botanist
Ryan Turner	BLM Botanist
Saundra Miles	BLM Recreation Planner - Visual Resources
Gary Hoppe	BLM Planning and Environmental Coordination
Graham Armstrong	BLM Hydrology

B. CONSULTATION

UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE (USFWS)

The proposed action was determined to have *"No Affect"* on any federally listed or proposed terrestrial species known to occur in the vicinity because no habitat for such species would be modified and no such habitat exists within 0.25 mile of these species.

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE (NMFS)

This proposed action was determined by the Level 1 Coast Range Province Team to be a "*May Affect, Likely to Adversely Affect"* for the coastal coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*). The proposed action is consistent with the aquatic restoration terms and conditions, and descriptions in the Programmatic Biological Assessment and Biological Opinion for the Oregon Coast Coho Salmon issued by NMFS on June 5, 2000 so no further consultation is required.

ADJACENT LANDOWNERS

The BLM, Eugene District consulted with Roseburg Resources Company on June 3, 1998 concerning the decommissioning of Road No. 18-6-33.1 since this road accesses their lands to the east in Section 34, Township 18 South, Range 6 West. Roseburg Resources Company responded on June 23, 1998 giving their concurrence to the decommissioning of the road with the understanding that their rights to reopen the road in the future under Right-of-Way Agreement E-308 are secure.

VIII. REFERENCES

USDA, Forest Service and USDI, Bureau of Land Management. February 1994. *Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement on Management of Habitat for Late-Successional and Old-Growth Forest Related Species Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl.* Washington D.C.

USDA, Forest Service and USDI, Bureau of Land Management. February 1994. *Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement on Management of Habitat for Late-Successional and Old-Growth Forest Related Species Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl, Appendix J2 Results of Additional Species Analysis.*

USDA, Forest Service and USDI, Bureau of Land Management. April 1994. *Record of Decision for Amendments to Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Planning Documents Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl.* Washington D.C.

USDA, Forest Service and USDI, Bureau of Land Management. October 1996. Draft, Version 1.1; Draft Management Recommendations Bryophytes, Installment 1.

USDA Forest Service and USDI Bureau of Land Management. October 1997. Instruction Memorandum No. OR-98-003, Survey and Manage Management Recommendations - Fungi, Version 2.0. Portland, Oregon.

USDA, Forest Service and USDI, Bureau of Land Management. October 1998. *Environmental Assessment - To Change the Implementation Schedule for Survey and Manage and Protection Buffer Species.*

USDI, Bureau of Land Management. November 1994. *Eugene District Proposed Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement.* Eugene District Office, Eugene, Oregon.

USDI, Bureau of Land Management. February 1995. *Wolf Creek Watershed Analysis*. Eugene District Office. Eugene, OR.

USDI, Bureau of Land Management. June 1995. *Eugene District Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan.* Eugene District Office, Eugene, Oregon.

USDI, Bureau of Land Management and Oregon State Historic Preservation Office. 1998. Protocol Agreement.

USDI, Bureau of Land Management. March 1999. *Plan Maintenance Documentation - To Change the Implementation Schedule for Survey and Manage and Protection Buffer Species*.

USDI, Bureau of Land Management. May 1999. *Environmental Assessment (EA) No. OR O90-00-29, B-Happy Commercial Thinning.*

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EA-00-30

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
EUGENE DISTRICT OFFICE

Preliminary
Finding of No Significant Impact
for
Road Number 18-6-33.1 Decommissioning

Determination:

On the basis of the information contained in the Environmental Assessment, and all other information available to me, it is my determination that implementation of the proposed action or alternatives will not have significant environmental impacts beyond those already addressed in the *Record of Decision (ROD) for Amendments to Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Planning Documents Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl* (April 1994), and the *Eugene District Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan* (June 1995) with which this EA is in conformance, and does not, in and of itself, constitute a major federal action having a significant effect on the human environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement or a supplement to the existing environmental impact statement is not necessary and will not be prepared.